

CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
~~an access point of a network,~~ collecting statistical data for a plurality of user terminals at an access point of a network,
wherein the plurality of user terminals are capable of accessing the network by use of the access point, and
wherein the statistical data comprises information about data traffic provided from a server accessible to the ~~to the~~ plurality of user terminals;
providing to ~~the server~~ a billing entity the statistical data;
~~at the server,~~ determining a payment associated with an account associated with an operator of the access point at the billing entity,
wherein the determining is based, at least in part, on the provided statistical data.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising operating the access point ~~is operated by~~ with a network service provider.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the access point comprises a wireless access point (WAP).
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein determining a the payment ~~to provide to an account~~ associated with ~~an~~ the operator of the access point comprises determining a payment for an account associated with an operator of the WAP.
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the WAP comprises a base station.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein determining a the payment ~~to provide to an account~~ associated with ~~an~~ the operator of the access point comprises determining a payment for an account associated with an operator of the base station.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the base station comprises a substantially IEEE standard 802.11 compliant base station.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the network ~~is~~ comprises a wireless local area network (WLAN).

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises an internetwork.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the internetwork comprises the Internet.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising information about the data provided from a server to the to the plurality of user terminals comprises providing, as at least part of the statistical data, information about data packets received at the access point from a the server accessible via the network and forwarded by the access point to at least one wireless one of the user terminals.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~4~~11, wherein the at least one wireless user terminal comprises one or more of a cellular telephone, a mobile telephone, a voice over internet protocol mobile telephone, a laptop computer, a wireless modulator/demodulator coupled to an electronic computing device, a personal digital assistant, and a two way pager.

13. – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, ~~wherein~~ further comprising operating the server comprises operated by with a content service provider.

20. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the information about data provided from a server to the to the plurality of user terminals comprises~~ further comprising providing, as at least part of the statistical data, a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server to the plurality of user terminals.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, ~~wherein the information about data packets received at the access point from a server accessible via the network and forwarded by the access point to at least one wireless user terminal comprises~~ further comprising providing, as at least part of the statistical data, a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server ~~accessible via the network and forwarded by the access point to the~~ at least one wireless user terminal.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~21~~11, ~~wherein the count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server accessible via the network and forwarded by the access point to the wireless user terminal comprises~~ further comprising providing, as at least part of the statistical data, a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server ~~accessible via the network and forwarded by the access point using a Media Access Control address associated with the~~ at least one wireless user terminal.

23. – 76. (Canceled)

77. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:
a network access point capable of collecting statistical data for a plurality of user terminals,
wherein the plurality of user terminals are capable of accessing the network by use of the access point, and
wherein the statistical data comprises information about data traffic provided from a server to the ~~to the~~ plurality of user terminals;

a ~~server~~ billing entity capable of determining a payment associated with an account associated with an operator of the access point, ~~wherein the determining is based,~~ responsive at least in part, on the ~~provided~~ statistical data.

78. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 77, wherein the network access point is operated by a network service provider.

79. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 77, wherein the network access point comprises a wireless access point (WAP).

80. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~25~~ 79, wherein ~~determining a payment to provide to an account associated with an operator of the access point comprises determining~~ the billing entity is configured to determine a payment for an account associated with an operator of the ~~WAR~~ WAP.

81. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~25~~ 79, wherein the WAP further comprises a base station.

82. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~27~~ 81, wherein ~~determining a payment to provide to an account associated with an operator of the access point comprises determining~~ the billing entity is configured to determine a payment for an account associated with an operator of the base station.

83. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~27~~ 81, wherein the base station comprises a substantially IEEE standard 802.11 compliant base station.

84. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 77, wherein the network comprises a wireless local area network (WLAN).

85. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 77, wherein the network comprises an internetwork.

86. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 77, wherein the information about data traffic provided from a the server to the ~~to the~~ plurality of user terminals comprises information about data packets received at the access point from a the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to at least one wireless one of the user terminals.

87. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 77, wherein the information about data traffic provided from a the server to the ~~to the~~ plurality of user terminals comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server.

88. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~86, wherein the information about data packets received at the access point from a the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to the at least one wireless user terminal comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to the at least one wireless user terminal.

89. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~23~~ 88, wherein the count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to the at least one wireless user terminal comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point using a Media Access Control address associated with the at least one wireless user terminal.

90. (Currently amended) An article comprising: a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that if executed by a computing device performs a method as follows:

~~at an access point of a network,~~ collecting statistical data for a plurality of user terminals at an access point of a network,

wherein the plurality of user terminals are capable of accessing the network by use of the access point, and

wherein the statistical data comprises information about data traffic provided from a server to the ~~to the~~ plurality of user terminals;

providing to ~~the server~~ a billing entity the statistical data;

~~at the server,~~ determining a payment associated with an account associated with an operator of the access point at the billing entity,
wherein the determining is based, at least in part, on the provided statistical data.

91. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~36~~ 90, wherein the access point is operated by a network service provider.

92. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~36~~ 90, wherein the access point further comprises a wireless access point (WAP).

93. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~38~~ 92, wherein the WAP comprises a base station.

94. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~38~~ 93, wherein the instructions, if further executed, determine a payment for an account associated with an operator of the base station.

95. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~38~~ 93, wherein the base station comprises a substantially IEEE standard 802.11 compliant base station.

96. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~36~~ 90, wherein the network comprises a wireless local area network (WLAN).

97. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~36~~ 90, wherein the information about data traffic provided from a the server to the ~~to the~~ plurality of user terminals comprises information about data packets received at the access point from a the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to at least one wireless one of the user terminals.

98. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~36~~ 90, wherein the information about data traffic provided from a the server to the ~~to the~~ plurality of user terminals comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server.

99. (Currently amended) The article of claim 43 97, wherein the information about data packets received at the access point from a the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to the at least one wireless user terminal comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to the at least one wireless user terminal.

100. (Currently amended) The article of claim 43 99, wherein the count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to the at least one wireless user terminal comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point using a Media Access Control address associated with the at least one wireless user terminal.

101. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point responsive to an amount paid for the access point.

102. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point responsive to a subsidy provided for the access point.

103. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
operating the server by a content service provider;
determining the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point responsive to a portion of subscriber payments to the content service provider; and
wherein the subscribers access the content service provider via the plurality of user terminals.

104. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point includes:
operating the network with an internet service provider; and

determining a payment for the internet service provider responsive to the statistical data.

105. (New) The method of claim 104, further comprising:

determining, responsive to the statistical data, a portion of the payment for the internet service provider as the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point.

106. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

operating the server by a content service provider;

authenticating accesses of the user terminals to the network by an authenticator;

determining a payment from the content service provider to the authenticator for the authenticating; and

wherein the determining the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point includes determining, in response to the statistical data, a portion of the payment from the content service provider to the authenticator for the operator of the access point.